

69-1024

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

19 February 1969

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Robert E. Hampton

1. On 17 February 1969 I telephoned Mr. Robert Hampton, Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, to talk with him about the Ervin bill. I said that we had a close working relationship with John Macy last year and that I would be interested to learn what his position will be and whether he will be the Administration spokesman.
2. I found him very strongly opposed to the bill, perhaps even more so than John Macy. He feels that it is not only a bad bill but that it encroaches upon the powers of the Executive Branch. He encouraged us to oppose the bill in every way we can and said that he hopes we will broaden our approach and contest the entire bill rather than try to get an exception for just the Agency. I said that I am not certain just how far down this road we can go. (This would appear to be his job, not ours.) I told him that we have been in touch with Kenneth BeLieu at the White House and asked whether he has been in contact with Mr. BeLieu or with Bryce Harlow. He said that he has not but that he will get in touch with them before very long.
3. He expressed some concern that Senator Ervin might try to get the bill through the Senate without holding hearings on it. He assumes that, if hearings are held, he will be called upon to testify, and he said that Tony Mondello, his General Counsel, will be preparing the testimony. He suggested that we get in touch with Mr. Mondello and stay as close to him as possible on this matter.

/s/ E. K. White

L. K. White  
Executive Director-Comptrollercc: DD/S  
OGC  
OLC

SECRET

MORI/CDF